

By



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/780,499	02/12/2001	Seiji Kishimoto	P20588	8118

7055 7590 07/27/2005

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

NATNAEL, PAULOS M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/780,499

Applicant(s)

KISHIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Paulos M. Natnael

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17,18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cooper, U.S. 5,995,140.

Considering the newly added claim 17, Cooper discloses system and method for synchronization of multiple video cameras. Cooper teaches Video Inputs #1-#4 from Video cameras 301-304, Video Switcher 220, FIG.3 and timing Control 210, fig.2. (see col. 2, lines 62 through col. 3, line 31) Video switcher control 200 (fig.1) that controls the operation of the system. As to the generating a reset signal, Cooper teaches that "If the timing control of a camera capable of external synchronization exceeds an allowable variation from the drive signal, the camera will reset the counter of the timing control in the camera. For example, the cameras 301, 302, 303, and 304 will compare the horizontal drive pulse 710 of the horizontal drive signal 700 with the horizontal synchronization pulse 540 of the video signal 500 for the particular camera to determine if the horizontal counter of the timing control in the particular camera must be reset." And, "If the timing control of a camera...exceeds an allowable variation from the drive signal, the camera will reset the counter of the timing control in the camera." (col. 3,

Art Unit: 2614

lines 38-47, see also line 48 through col. 4, line 5) Therefore, the reset generation is disclosed by Cooper et al. and meets the claim as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,995,140 in view of Voltz, U.S. Patent No. 6,314,523.

Cooper discloses video switcher control 200 fig.1 that controls the operation of the system. Cooper et al. however, do not specifically disclose turning off the power the signal source to be changed. Voltz teaches that "The power management circuit couples to the plurality of power rails and the second plurality of ground planes, for selectively deactivating at least on of the plurality of power rails independently of any of the other plurality of power rails." (col. 2, lines 30- 33)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to the skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Cooper et al. by providing power management or system control unit such Voltz's to control the power to individual units of the system so that a well-regulated power distribution in the system is achieved helping the reliability of the system as a whole.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 4/25/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the claims 11 and 17 have already been indicated allowable by the examiner, therefore, according to the applicant, "the combinations of features recited" in the claims are not disclosed, suggested or rendered obvious by the reference applied.

Note however that the objection statute reads that the claims "...would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." In addition, the following statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter was given: the prior art fails to disclose a reset signal generator that generates a reset signal synchronized with a sync signal of the video output source to be changed based on the changeover instruction, wherein the timing synchronizer synchronizes a sync signal output by the target video output source with said reset signal, as in claims 2; generating a reset signal synchronized with a sync signal of the signal source means to be changed, wherein the synchronizing the sync signal synchronizes a sync signal of the changeover target signal source with said reset signal, as in claim 10.

The applicant failed to rewrite the claims in independent form "including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims". Instead, the Applicant rewrote the claims, which they have the right to do, but claims 11 and 17 no longer resemble the claims indicated allowable (2 and 10) in the previous office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims **11-16** are allowed.
7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to disclose the combination of limitations claimed in claim 11.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (571) 272-7354. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00am - 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571)272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Paulos M. Natnael
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614

July 21, 2005